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NORTH CAROLINA

Farm Report

Cooperative Crop Reporting Service

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APR 6 1955
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NO. 180 RALEIGH, N. C. MARCH 25, 1955

REDUCTION IN TOTAL CROP ACREAGE EXPECTED

Prospective planting reports from North Carolina farmers indicate a 2 percent net reduction from last year in acreage to be utilized by the ten crops included in a survey made as of March 1. Excluded from the report are the acreage seeded to wheat and to be seeded to cotton. Seedings of wheat for harvest in 1955 were estimated last December to have been the same as acreage seeded for harvest in 1954. Reports on prospective plantings of cotton are not made at this time, but a reduction is expected for this crop in view of a present acreage allotment for 1955 about 42,000 below acreage actually planted for harvest in 1954.

Due to reduced allotments, this year's acreage of tobacco is expected to be about 5 percent smaller than last year, while the peanut acreage will remain at the same level as in 1954. Growers indicate that present plans are to reduce the corn acreage by 4 percent. Acreages devoted to oats, potatoes, sweetpotatoes, soybeans and hay are expected to be about the same as last year. Moderate increases of 5 percent and 10 percent respectively, are indicated for barley and for sorghums.

The indicated acreages for 1955 are interpretations of reports from growers,

(Continued on Page 2)

SLIGHT DECREASE IN CORN ACREAGE INDICATED

Reports from North Carolina farmers on 1955 prospective plantings indicate that 2,085,000 acres of corn will be planted. A crop of this size would be 4 percent less than the 2,172,000 acres planted in 1954 and 7 percent less than the 1944-53 average plantings of 2,-

(Continued on Page 4)

INTENTIONS SHOW 5 PERCENT DROP IN FLUE-CURED ACREAGE

Reports received through a recent sample survey of tobacco producers indicate that 653,000 acres of the flue-cured crop will be planted in North Carolina in 1955. An acreage this size would be nearly 5 percent smaller than the 686,000 acresharvested last year and nearly 7 percent smaller than the 1944-53 average of 699,000 acres. The indicated decrease in the 1955 acreage closely parallels the cut in allotments.

By types, 253,000 acres are expected to be planted in the type 11 area (Old and Middle Belts) this year, as compared to 266,000 acres in 1955 and the 10-year average of 272,000 acres. In the type 12 area (Eastern Belt), current intentions point to 317,000 acres for 1955 as compared to 334,000 acres harvested last year and the 10-year average of 342,000 acres. This year's settings of type 13 (Border

(Continued on Page 4)

PEANUT ACREAGE UNCHANGED

Prospective 1955 plantings of peanuts alone for all purposes in the State is indicated at 180,000 acres. Such a crop would be the same as was planted in 1954 but 92,000 acres below the 10-year (1944-53) average acreage of 272,000 acres. These intentions include peanuts for picking and threshing, for hogging off, and for other purposes.

For the U. S., reports indicate that there will be 1,914,000 acres of peanuts for all purposes planted in 1955. This will be 1 percent below the acreage planted in 1954. The first estimate of the 1955 acreage of peanuts for picking and threshing will be made in August.

TOBACCO *(Continued)*

Belt) are expected to total 83,000 acres -- about 3,000 acres below 1954 and about 2,000 acres below the 1944-53 average.

Burley producers in the State expressed intentions to plant about 10,800 acres of tobacco this year, or around 9 percent less than the 11,900 acres harvested last year and nearly 4 percent less than the 10-year average of 11,200 acres. A decrease in allotments is chiefly responsible for the expected drop in the type 31 acreage.

Meanwhile, for the Nation, reports on farmers' March 1 intentions to plant tobacco indicate a total of 1,561,300 acres this year, a decrease of 5 percent from 1954.

Prospective U. S. acreage of flue-cured tobacco is estimated at 995,300 acres, a reduction of 5 percent from the 1,042,200 acres harvested last year.

As of March 1, U. S. Burley growers planned to set 372,000 acres, a reduction of 8 percent from last year.

CORN ACREAGE *(Continued)*

233,000 acres.

Corn acreage allotments are in effect in 23 eastern North Carolina counties this year. The 1955 acreage allotment, in counties with allotments in both 1954 and 1955, is actually about 10 percent above last year.

March indications point to a total U. S. planted corn acreage of 82,033,000 acres. This is about the same as the 1954 planted acreage of 81,893,000 acres, but is 5 percent less than the 1944-53 average planted acreage.

SOYBEAN ACREAGE UNCHANGED

The 1955 prospective acreage for soybeans grown alone for all purposes in North Carolina is 441,000 acres. If this acreage is realized it will be the same as was planted in 1954, but 13 percent above the 10-year (1944-53) average plantings of 390,000 acres. For the U. S., reports indicate an increase of 6.5 percent over the 18,753,000 acres planted in 1954. The 19,981,000 acres in prospect for 1955 is about 45 percent above the 1944-53 (10-year) average plantings of 13,740,000 acres.

N. C. STORAGE FACILITIES

The map on page 5 shows the distribution of commercial grain storage establishments by counties, and the table below the map gives the number and total capacity of these concerns by crop reporting districts as of January 1, 1955. The table also shows the combined yearly average production of major grains in the State in order that the distribution and capacity of storage facilities may be more fully appreciated.

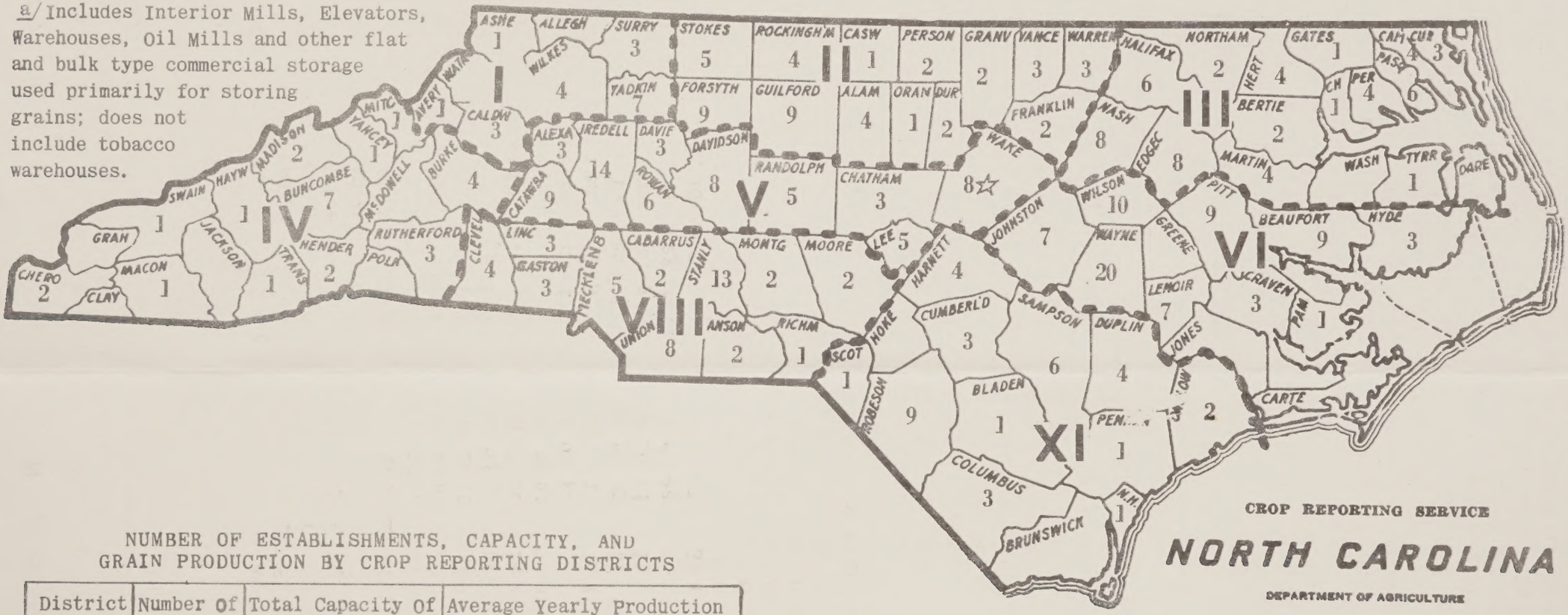
The capacities of storage facilities of individual plants range from a few thousand bushels to several hundred thousand bushels. Many plants store grains primarily for use in their own manufacturing operations, while others are engaged mainly in collecting and shipping.

It is interesting to review the rapid growth made in grain storage facilities in the State over the past five years. By comparison, there are now about 364 commercial plants in N. C. which maintain stocks of grains, either seasonally or during the entire year. This number represents an increase of 46 percent over the 249 such plants in the State on January 1, 1950. Even more significant is the fact that the present 13,707,000 bushels of flat and bulk storage space in these plants is 83 percent greater than the 7,499,000 bushels available five years ago. Thus, the sharp increase in the number of plants during the past few years has been accompanied by an even greater increase in total capacity. Much of this increase in capacity during these years, naturally, has come about through the expansion of existing facilities.

A further item of interest that may be derived from the information shown in the table is the relationship between the total capacity of plants and total farm production of grains in specific areas. For instance, in the Coastal Plains (districts III, VI, and IX) extensive amounts of corn and soybeans are produced for commercial purposes, thus, requiring considerable storage. In the Piedmont (districts II, V, and VIII) small grains, and corn and sorghum grain in some areas, are of particular importance. The commercial production of grains in most Mountain areas (districts I and Iv) is generally on a rather limited scale.

NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL GRAIN STORAGE ESTABLISHMENTS IN NORTH CAROLINA BY COUNTIES ON JANUARY 1, 1955 a/

a/ Includes Interior Mills, Elevators, Warehouses, Oil Mills and other flat and bulk type commercial storage used primarily for storing grains; does not include tobacco warehouses.



CROP REPORTING SERVICE

NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS, CAPACITY, AND GRAIN PRODUCTION BY CROP REPORTING DISTRICTS

District Number	Number Of Plants	Total Capacity Of Plants (Bushels)	Average Yearly Production Of Grains (Bushels) b/
I	19	78,000	3,829,000
IV	26	249,000	5,739,000
II	47	1,019,000	9,733,000
V	64	2,369,000	10,423,000
VIII	45	2,726,000	10,628,000
III	54	2,033,000	15,733,000
VI	72	3,845,000	17,175,000
IX	37	1,388,000	16,206,000
State	364	13,707,000	89,466,000

b/ Combined average yearly production of corn, oats, wheat, and soybeans on farms from 1948 through 1952.

FARM REPORT

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ESTIMATED MILK PRODUCTION PER COW AT RECORD LEVEL FOR FEBRUARY

Production of milk on farms in North Carolina during February 1955 totaled 121 million pounds, 1 million pounds more than last year, but 15 percent above the 1944-43 February average.

The number of milk cows on farms in the State during February was estimated at 370 thousand, compared with 382 thousand during this same period last year. The production per cow was 326 pounds -- the highest of record for the month of February

Production of milk on U. S. farms in February totaled 8,884 million pounds, 1 percent less than last year, but 9 percent above average. Milk production was below the corresponding month a year earlier for the third consecutive month. This resulted from the smaller number of milk cows on farms as milk production per cow was record high for February.

FEBRUARY EGG PRODUCTION BELOW LAST YEAR

North Carolina farm flocks laid 118 million eggs during February of this year, about 7 percent less than was produced in February of 1954.

The number of layers on hand and eggs laid per layer dropped, with production per layer decreasing approximately 4 percent below February of 1954. Cold weather over most of the State was responsible for the lower rate of lay.

Meanwhile, U. S. farm flocks laid 5,518 million eggs in February, about the same as in February last year and 7 percent above the 1944-53 average. The rate of egg production in February was 14.6 eggs per layer, compared with 14.8 eggs a year earlier and the average of 13.3 eggs.

The Nation's laying flock averaged 379,131,000 layers in February -- 2 percent more than in February last year, but 2 percent below average.